

From: wfdeller@wilbur.dhs.org@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:32pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter regarding the Microsoft anti-trust matter out of personal concern for the harm that has occurred and continues to occur in the computer software marketplace and consumers.

Based on the information that has been provided on the proposed settlement, I feel, very strongly, that it will provide absolutely no relief from Microsoft's illegal business practices. I think that the most blatant point that the settlement fails to correct is Microsoft's continued hindrance of competing products. Microsoft is in a position to bully any competitor into submission because of its near 100% dominance of the desktop market. In this position, no company will be able to compete, even if it provides its software for free.

In my opinion, the only way to correct the Microsoft monopoly and somewhat level the playing field is to force Microsoft to openly publish the programming interface to its Windows Operating Systems (and that includes Internet Explorer - Microsoft says that it is now a core part of its Operating System) and its applications file formats (i.e., MS Office). This provision is included in the current proposed settlement, but only provides this information for companies that are somehow "certified" by Microsoft. The information should be public to all companies and individuals, including security related API's (excluding API's that involve security will essentially exclude all API's. All programming interfaces have some form of security included). Providing this information, to everyone, will allow companies and private individuals to create applications that extend, inter operate and compete with the Microsoft Windows platform.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the settlement case. I am truly hopeful that some benefit is realized in the software marketplace as a result of this case. Unfortunately though, unless significant changes are made to the settlement, absolutely no improvement to the competitive landscape will be realized and consumers will continue to be harmed.

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